



Classic

CLASSIC
STAR WARS
18

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CLASSIC STAR WARS



ARCHIE GOODWIN • AL WILLIAMSON



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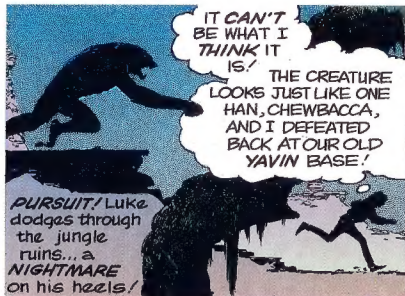
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WHAT HAS COME BEFORE

Admiral Griff and Darth Vader are both rushing to attack the Rebels as they escape past a dangerous stellar flare-emitting star. Griff's fleet arrives second — directly on top of Vader's cruiser, destroying Griff's ship and allowing the Rebels to escape to Hoth. In a pensive moment, reflecting on the Rebels' escape, Vader reveals in his thoughts that he is actually Luke's father. The *Millennium Falcon*, with Han, Luke, Artoo, Threepio, and Chewie aboard, heads for the nearest planet, a seeming tropical paradise, to repair the navigational computer. Luke soon discovers a woman that appears to be Tanith Shire being attacked by a strange octopus-like plant creature. Luke eventually "rescues" the woman, but discovers that she's really an illusion-caster named S'ybll, living alone on the planet. There are signs that Imperial troops were attacked by a sizable force and defeated here, but S'ybll insists she's frightened of the potential intruders, and needs someone like Luke to stay and protect her. Meanwhile, lurking in the background of the ruins S'ybll calls home is a creature looking a lot like the Night Beast from Yavin. As it leaps out to attack Luke . . .





IT CAN'T
BE WHAT I
THINK IT
IS!

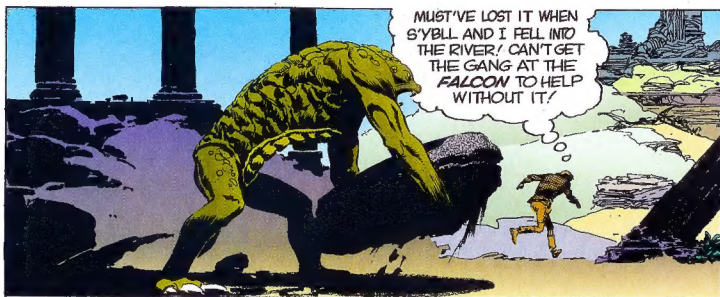
THE CREATURE
LOOKS JUST LIKE ONE
HAN, CHEWBACCA,
AND I DEFEATED
BACK AT OUR OLD
YAVIN BASE!

PURSUIT! Luke
dodges through
the jungle
ruins... a
NIGHTMARE
on his heels!



DON'T KNOW HOW IT
COULD POSSIBLY WIND
UP *HERE!* BUT I'LL
WORRY ABOUT THAT
AFTER I SUMMON
SOME HELP WITH--

MY COMLINK!
IT'S... GONE!



MUST'VE LOST IT WHEN
S'YBILL AND I FELL INTO
THE RIVER! CAN'T GET
THE GANG AT THE
FALCON TO HELP
WITHOUT IT!



AND IF I START USING
MY *BLASTER*, IT COULD
BRING THESE RUINS
TUMBLING DOWN ON ME
OR S'YBILL, WHEREVER *SHE'S*
HIDING!

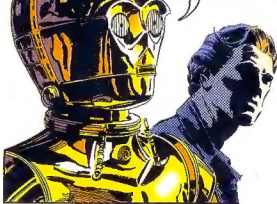


SKYWALKER, YOU'D BETTER FIND
A WORKABLE *OPTION...* AND
FAST!

At the *MILLENNIUM FALCON*'s repair site...



HIS COMLINK IS *OPERATIONAL*,
CAPTAIN SOLO,
BUT HE'S NOT
RESPONDING!
OH, DEAR...

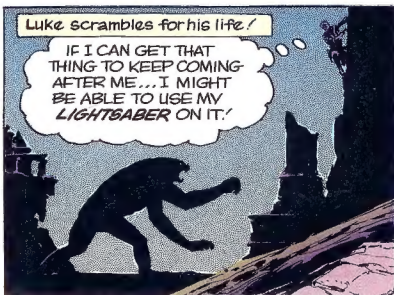


"...THINGS COULD BE QUITE
DIFFICULT FOR HIM
IF HE'S SOMEHOW
MISPLACED IT."



Luke scrambles for his life!

IF I CAN GET THAT
THING TO KEEP COMING
AFTER ME... I MIGHT
BE ABLE TO USE MY
LIGHTSABER ON IT!

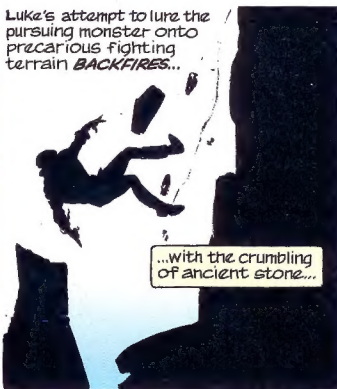


But...

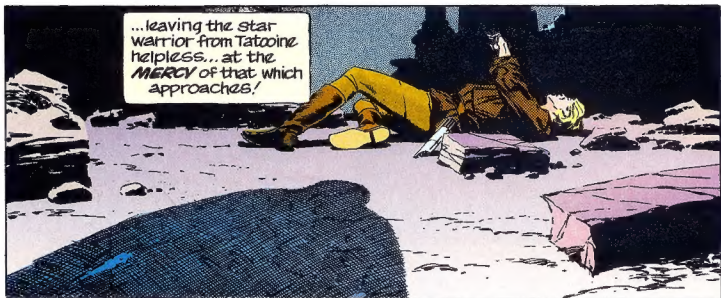
NO!



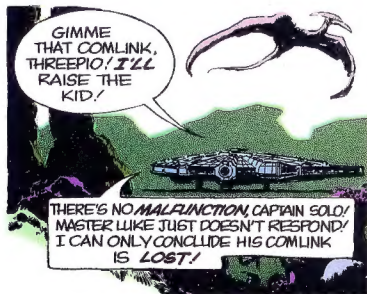
Luke's attempt to lure the
pursuing monster onto
precarious fighting
terrain *BACKFIRES*...



...with the crumbling
of ancient stone...



...leaving the star warrior from Tatooine helpless...at the *MERCY* of that which approaches!



GIMME THAT COMLINK, THREEPIO! I'LL RAISE THE KID!

THERE'S NO *MALFUNCTION*, CAPTAIN SOLO! MASTER LUKE JUST DOESN'T RESPOND! I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE HIS COMLINK IS *LOST*!



WELL, WHY DON'T THEY MAKE 'EM *BIGGER*? SO A GUY ON A DANGEROUS SCOUTING MISSION CAN'T MISPLACE 'EM!

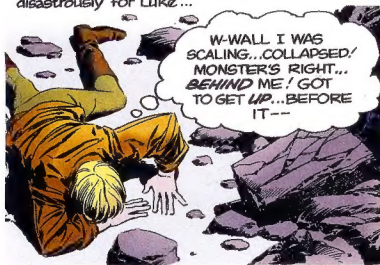


CAPTAIN SOLO, IT'S NOW PITCH DARK! THE ODDS AGAINST PICKING UP MASTER LUKE'S *TRAIL* ARE--



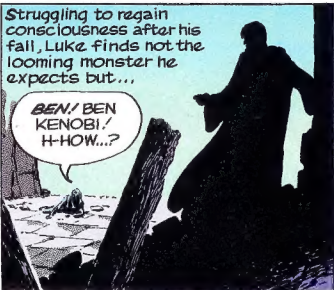
DIDN'T THEY PROGRAM YOU WITH ANY *FAVORABLE* STATISTICS, THREEPIO? WE'LL TRY *ANYWAY*!

Meanwhile, a chase through jungle ruins ends disastrously for Luke ...

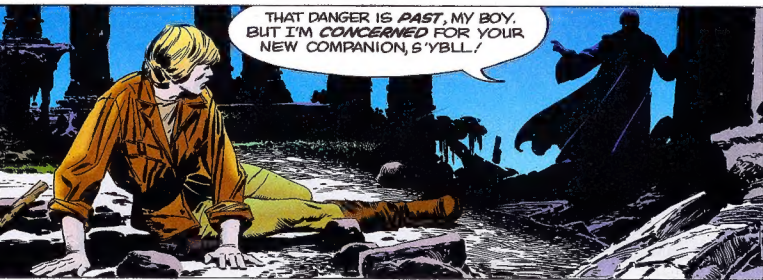


Struggling to regain consciousness after his fall, Luke finds not the looming monster he expects but...

BEN! BEN KENOBI! H-HOW...?



THAT DANGER IS PAST, MY BOY. BUT I'M CONCERNED FOR YOUR NEW COMPANION, S'YBLL.



I'M ALWAYS WITH YOU, YOUNG LUKE. AND IT SEEMS MY SUDDEN APPEARANCE HAS DRIVEN AWAY THE CREATURE WHICH MENACED YOU.



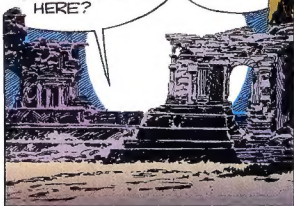
BUT WHAT OF YOUR NEW COMPANION AND THE DANGERS WHICH MENACE HER?

S'YBLL...?



B-BEN...I'M STILL GROGGY...FROM MY FALL..HOW DID A MONSTER FROM MY *PAST* APPEAR HERE?

WHERE DID IT GO?

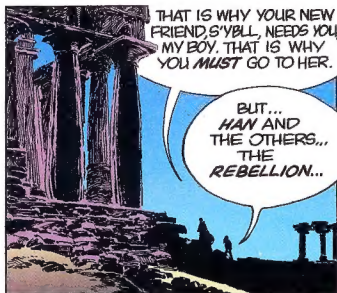


THERE ARE *MANY* MONSTERS, LUKE, EVEN ON A PLANETARY PARADISE SUCH AS THIS.



THAT IS WHY YOUR NEW FRIEND, S'YBLL, NEEDS YOU, MY BOY. THAT IS WHY YOU *MUST* GO TO HER.

BUT... *HAN* AND THE OTHERS... THE *REBELLION*...



LUKE, THERE ARE *MANY* TO FIGHT THE REBELLION... S'YBLL NEEDS YOU.

HAN... THE DROIDS... CHEWBACCA... THEY'RE ALL *WAITING* FOR ME, BEN.

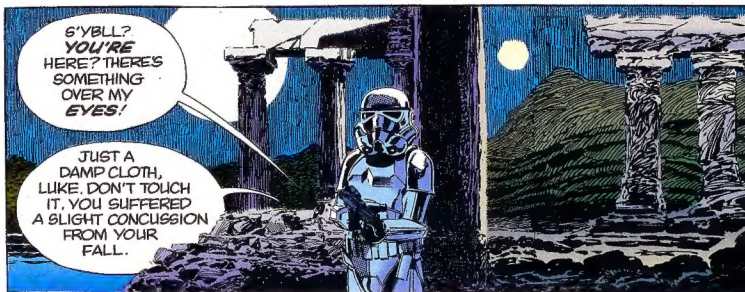
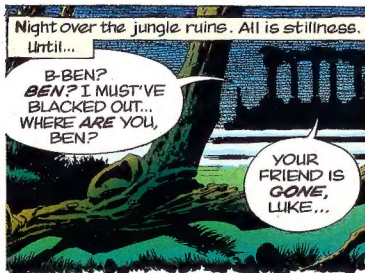
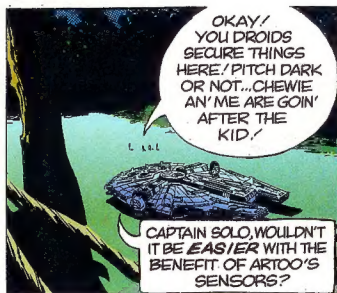


THERE WILL BE TIME FOR THEM LATER, MY BOY. FOR NOW...IT'S S'YBLL YOU MUST CONSIDER. GO TO HER.

SHE HID BEFORE THE MONSTER APPEARED...

...WAS IT *HERE*, BEN? YOU WANT ME...TO GO HERE...HELP ME...I FEEL ...SO...SO... W-WEAKKKKK...







I FELT
LIKE ... YOU
WERE ...
KISSING ME
EARLIER.

JUST RELAX ... LIE STILL. I KNOW
WHAT I'M DOING. I'VE DONE THIS
MANY TIMES BEFORE.



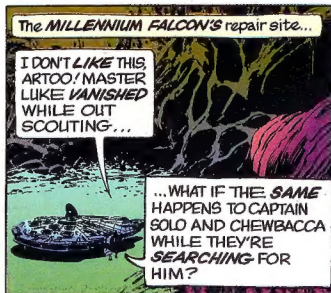
WAROWRRRR!

YOU'VE
LOST LUKE'S
TRAIL *AGAIN?*
BLAST IT! GONNA
TAKE US *ALL*
NIGHT TO FIND
THE KID!



NARRRRAGHH!

I KNOW, I *KNOW!*
IF SOMETHIN'S
CAUSED HIM TO
LOSE HIS *COMLINK...*
HE MAY NOT
HAVE ALL
NIGHT!

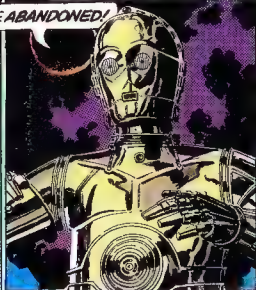


The *MILLENNIUM FALCON's* repair site...

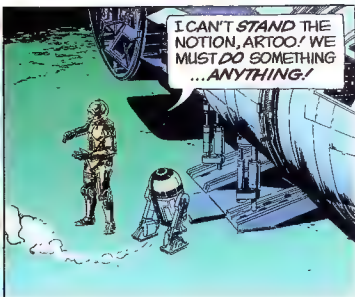
I DON'T *LIKE* THIS,
ARTOO! MASTER
LUKE *VANISHED*
WHILE OUT
SCOUTING...

...WHAT IF THE *SAME*
HAPPENS TO CAPTAIN
SOLO AND CHEWBACCA
WHILE THEY'RE
SEARCHING FOR
HIM?

WE'D BE ABANDONED!

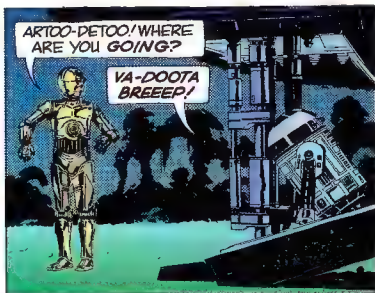


I CAN'T STAND THE NOTION, ARTOO! WE MUST DO SOMETHING... ANYTHING!



ARTOO-DETOO! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

VA-DOOTA BREEEP!

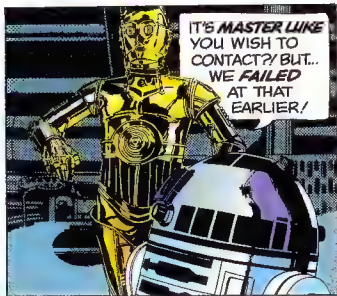


TO THE COMMUNICATOR?! CAPTAIN SOLO LEFT ORDERS NOT TO CALL HIM EXCEPT FOR AN EMERGENCY! AND I'M NOT SURE MY MISGIVINGS CONSTITUTE--

TRRR-KLIKK
VREEP
BLAAT!

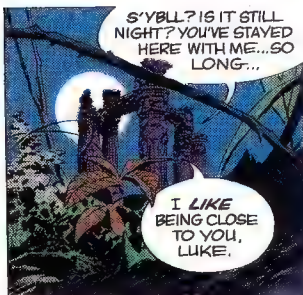


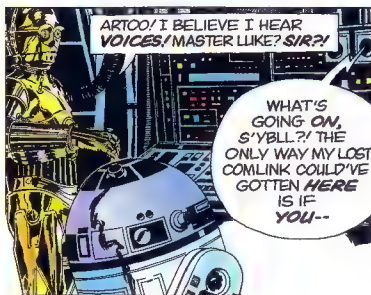
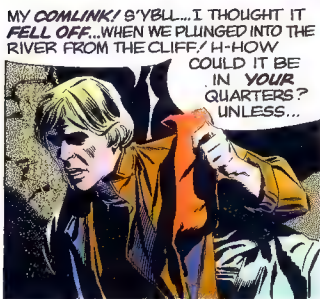
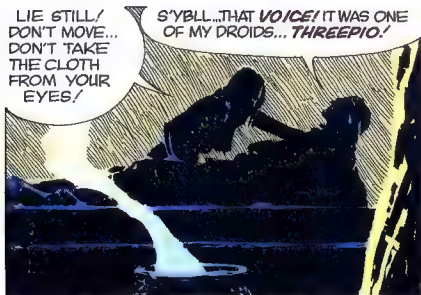
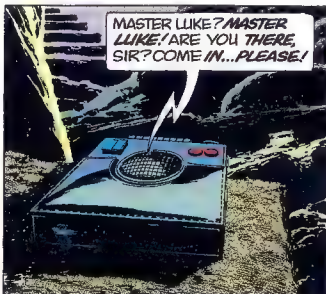
IT'S MASTER LUKE YOU WISH TO CONTACT? BUT... WE FAILED AT THAT EARLIER!

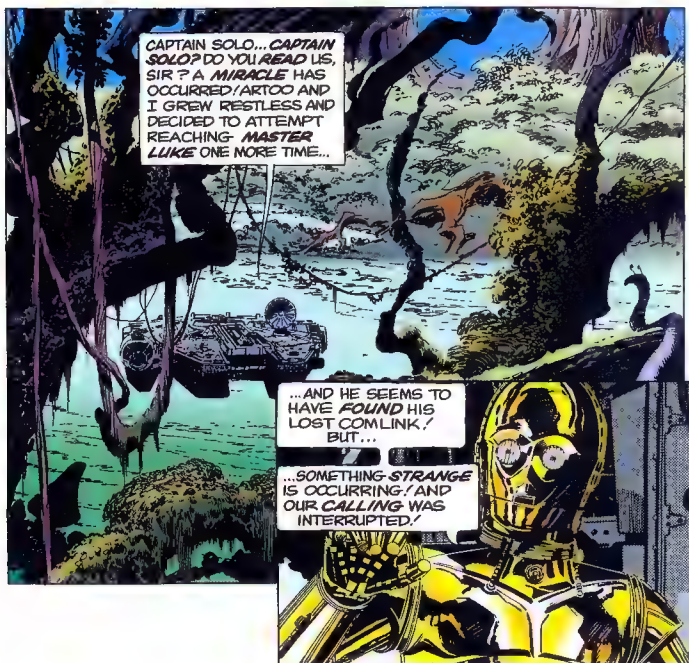


S'YBLL? IS IT STILL NIGHT? YOU'VE STAYED HERE WITH ME... SO LONG...

I LIKE BEING CLOSE TO YOU, LUKE.







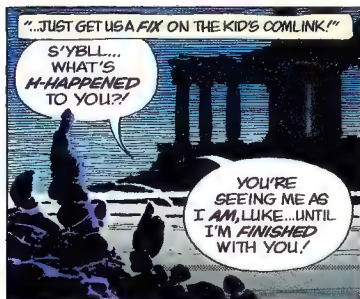


THREEPIO,
SLOW DOWN SO
CHEWIE AND I CAN
GET THIS! YOU'VE
CONTACTED
LUKE?

IT'S VERY *CONFUSING*,
CAPTAIN SOLO...

NEVER MIND...

...BUT FROM WHAT
ARTOO AND I CAN
OVERHEAR, SOMEONE
APPARENTLY *STOLE*
HIS COMLINK! HE'S
JUST *DISCOVERED*
THIS AND I FEAR
THERE'S DANGER
FROM--



"...JUST GET US A *FIX* ON THE KID'S COMLINK!"

S'YBLL...
WHAT'S
H-HAPPENED
TO YOU?!

YOU'RE
SEEING ME AS
I *AM*, LUKE...UNTIL
I'M *FINISHED*
WITH YOU!



I'VE *ALWAYS*
LOOKED THIS WAY...
UNTIL VISITORS LIKE
YOU-- AND AN
IMPERIAL EXPLORATION
TEAM BEFORE YOU--
ARRIVE TO *HELP*
ME!

AS YOUR
FRIENDS WILL
ARRIVE...
FOLLOWING
YOUR
COMLINK!



YOU *STOLE*
MY COMLINK,
S'YBLL...HID IT
HERE...IN YOUR
QUARTERS!

YES, LUKE.
RIGHT OFF YOUR
EQUIPMENT
BELT. I WANTED
TO *USE* IT
LATER...



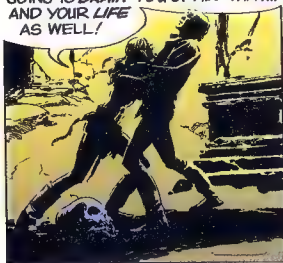
STAND *STILL*, LUKE. YOU'RE TOO WEAK... TOO FAR UNDER MY SPELL... TO ESCAPE *NOW!*

D-DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE *DONE* TO ME... BUT... I WON'T JUST *GIVE UP!*

YES... THERE'S GREAT *POWER* IN YOU. I SENSED THAT... IT'S WHAT *ATTRACTED* ME. BUT IT'S MOSTLY *UNFORMED*... YOU'VE NOT YET *MASTERED* IT...

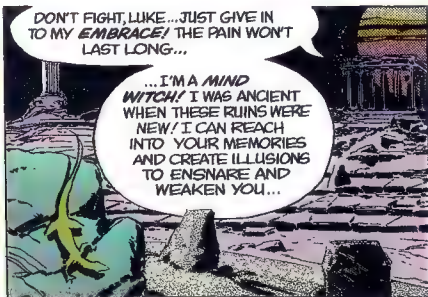


...AND NOW YOU NEVER *WILL!* I'M GOING TO *DRAIN* YOU OF ALL THAT... AND YOUR *LIFE* AS WELL!

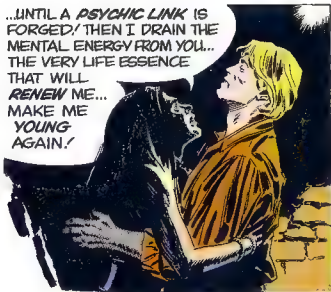


DON'T FIGHT, LUKE... JUST GIVE IN TO MY *EMBRACE!* THE PAIN WON'T LAST LONG...

...I'M A *MIND WITCH!* I WAS ANCIENT WHEN THESE RUINS WERE NEW! I CAN REACH INTO YOUR MEMORIES AND CREATE ILLUSIONS TO ENSNARE AND WEAKEN YOU...



...UNTIL A *PSYCHIC LINK* IS FORGED! THEN I DRAIN THE MENTAL ENERGY FROM YOU... THE VERY LIFE ESSENCE THAT WILL *RENEW* ME... MAKE ME *YOUNG* AGAIN!



THERE'S NO RESISTING, LUKE... YOU'LL SOON BE AN *EMPTY HUSK*! YOUR MENTAL ENERGIES WILL FEED ME... AS DID THOSE OF THE *IMPERIALS* BEFORE YOU!



IT'S *TOO LATE*... EVEN WITH THE *FORCE* RUNNING SO RICHLY WITHIN YOUR BEING! THE HOLD OF THE *MIND WITCH* IS UPON YOU... *GIVE IN!*

S'YBLL...



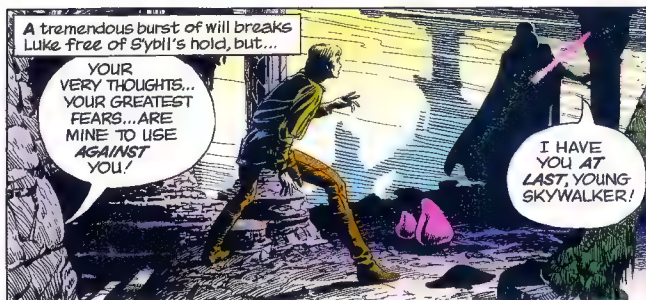
...NO!



YOU'RE *STRONG!* SO MUCH STRONGER THAN EVEN I SUSPECTED!

BUT THE MENTAL LINKS I'VE FORGED INTO YOUR MIND AND MEMORIES ARE STRONGER STILL!





DARTH VADER!
Already weakened,
Luke **RECOILS**
at the sight!

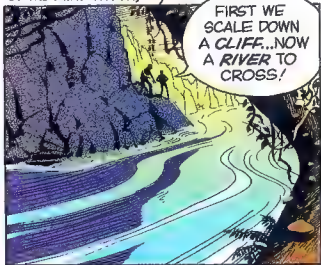


D-DRIVING
ME RIGHT BACK...
TO **S'YBLL**! GOT TO
RESIST! IT'S ONLY...
ONE OF HER **MIND**
WITCH ILLUSIONS!
BUT...

As Luke struggles against the psychic powers
of the mind witch, S'ybl...

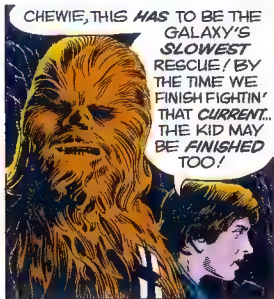


...IT
SEEMS SO
REAL!



FIRST WE
SCALE DOWN
A **CLIFF**...NOW
A **RIVER** TO
CROSS!

CHEWIE, THIS **HAS** TO BE THE
GALAXY'S
SLOWEST
RESCUE! BY
THE TIME WE
FINISH FIGHTIN'
THAT **CURRENT**...
THE KID MAY
BE **FINISHED**
TOO!



WAURRRGH!



HEY! WHATTA
YOU DOIN'?! HAVE
YOU GONE
NUTS, YA BIG
FURBALL?!

Seizing his protesting partner, Chewbacca scales a nearby tree! And...

YEEEOOWWW!
CHEWIE, YOU FOUND
A FAST WAY
TO CROSS THE
RIVER, BUT WHAT
IF THE
VINE...



...CAN'T
HOLD OUR
WEIGHT?!

In the jungle ruins...

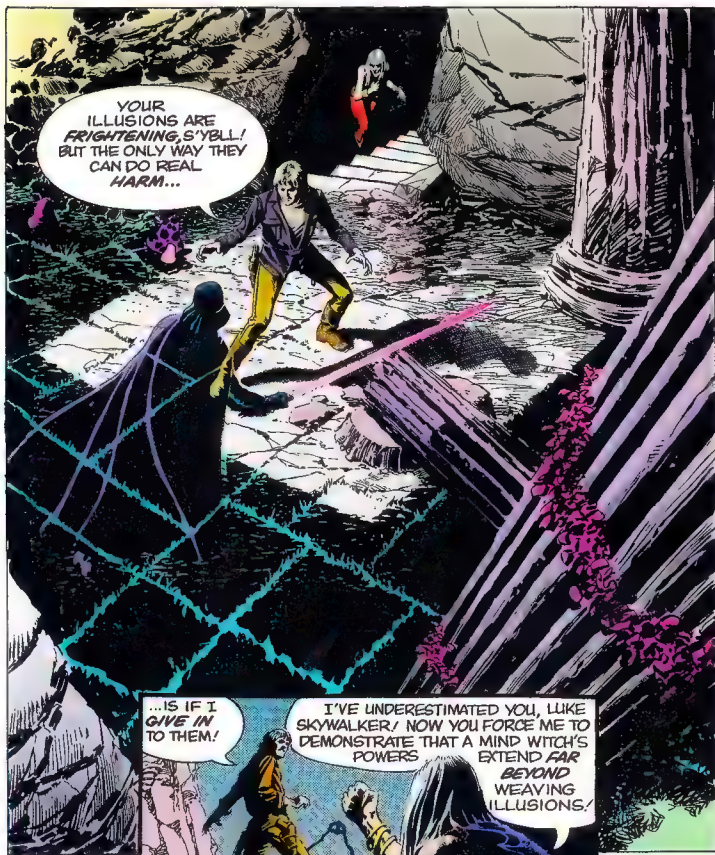
C-CAN'T LET AN
ILLUSION CREATED FROM
MY OWN *FEARS* DRIVE
ME BACK INTO S'YBLL'S
CLUTCHES! INSTEAD
OF *RESISTING* IT...



I'VE GOT
TO STOP AND
BE CALM!



HIS
LIGHTSABER
IS PASSING
THROUGH ME...
HARMLESSLY!



...IS IF I
GIVE IN
TO THEM!

I'VE UNDERESTIMATED YOU, LUKE
SKYWALKER! NOW YOU FORCE ME TO
DEMONSTRATE THAT A MIND WITCH'S
POWERS EXTEND FAR
BEYOND
WEAVING
ILLUSIONS!

I CAN WIELD
PHYSICAL OBJECTS!
I HATE TO CRUSH A
SOURCE OF **MENTAL**
ENERGIES WHICH
CAN FEED AND
RENEW ME...



...AND THEY'LL
BE EVEN **EASIER**
TO CONTEND WITH!

And...

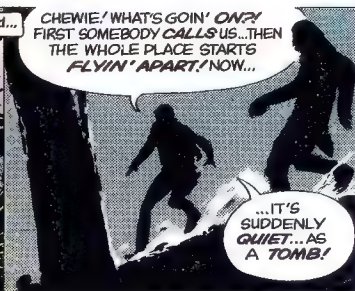
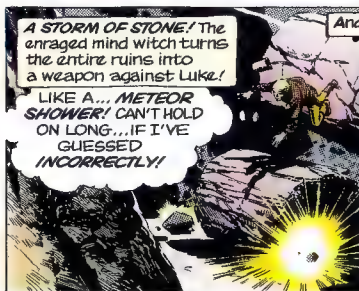
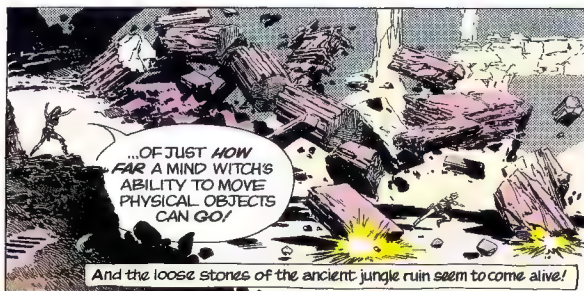
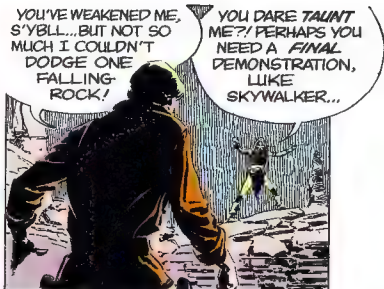
TOO BAD
THE **VINE**
BROKE!

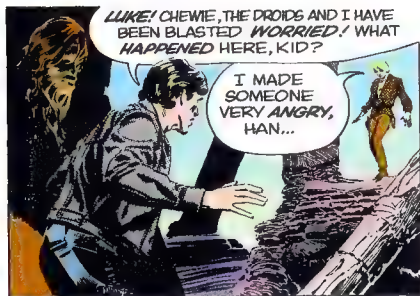
AT LEAST
IT GOT US
BEYOND THE
WORST CURRENTS...
AN' CLOSER TO
SAVIN' LUKE!

LUKE! LUKE?! IT'S HAN AND
CHEWIE! YOU AROUND, KID?
WHAT WAS
THAT **CRASH**
WE HEARD?!

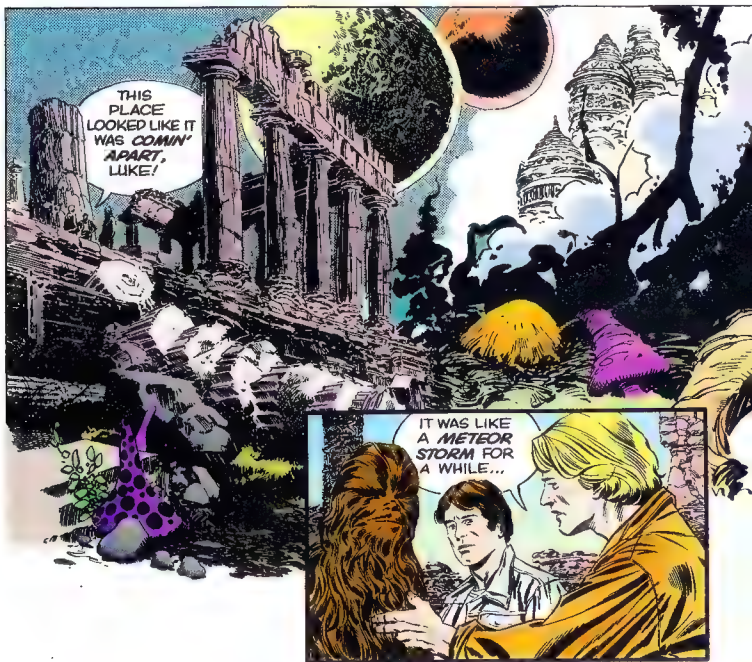
THIS
WAY!

HURRY! PLEASE!
YOUR FRIEND'S BEEN
HURT!





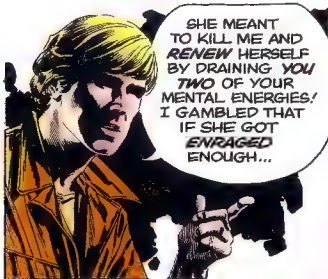
A *MIND WITCH*! S'YBLL MEANT TO *RENEW* HERSELF BY DRAINING ALL OF OUR MENTAL ENERGIES!



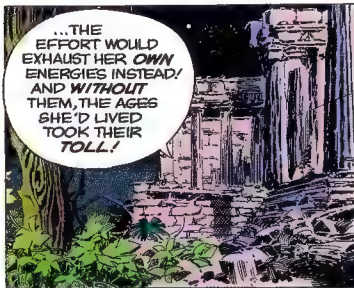
...SHE *EXHAUSTED* THE LAST OF HER *OWN* ENERGIES TRYING TO KILL ME /AND WITHOUT ANYTHING TO *SUSTAIN* HER... SHE COLLAPSED AS SHE SHOULD HAVE *AGES* AGO!



SHE MEANT TO KILL ME AND *RENEW* HERSELF BY DRAINING YOU *TWO* OF YOUR MENTAL ENERGIES! I GAMBLLED THAT IF SHE GOT *ENRAGED* ENOUGH...



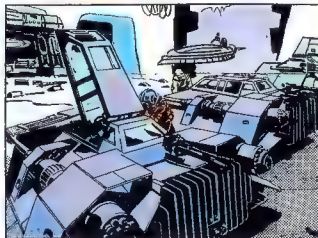
...THE EFFORT WOULD EXHAUST HER *OWN* ENERGIES INSTEAD! AND *WITHOUT* THEM, THE AGES SHE'D LIVED TOOK THEIR *TOLL*!

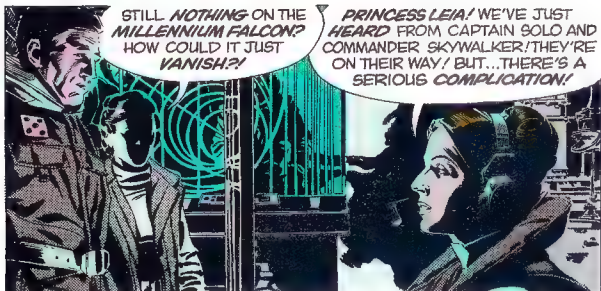


INSTEAD 'A THE TOLL SHE WAS GONNA TAKE OF *US*! KID... TIME WE LEFT THIS PARADISE!

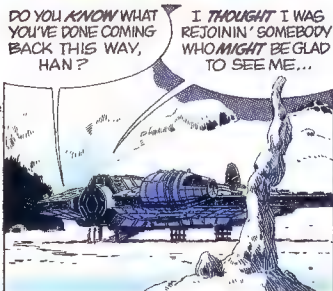
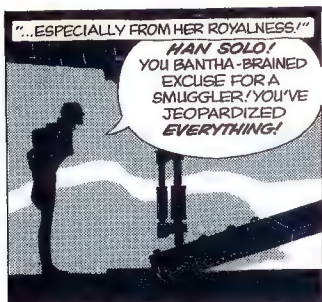


Meanwhile, concern mounts in the newly established Rebel base on Hoth.





And as the *MILLENNIUM FALCON* finally makes its way to the *HOTH SYSTEM!*



...OR AT LEAST BE PLEASED
TO HAVE AN IMPORTANT
REBEL ALLIANCE **HERO**
LIKE COMMANDER
SKYWALKER HERE
RETURNED!

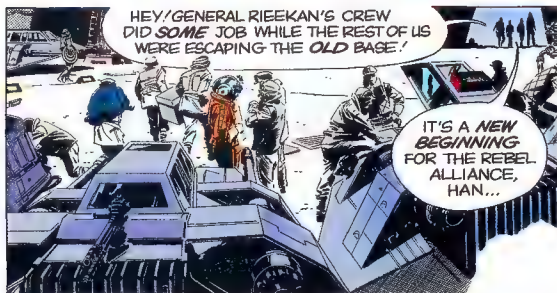
LISTEN,
YOU
TWO...



...MAYBE IF YOU'D STOP **FIGHTING** FOR
A SECOND, WE COULD GET IN FROM THE
COLD AND FIND
OUT WHAT
THE **REAL**
PROBLEM
IS!



HEY! GENERAL RIEEKAN'S CREW
DID **SOME** JOB WHILE THE REST OF US
WERE ESCAPING THE **OLD** BASE!



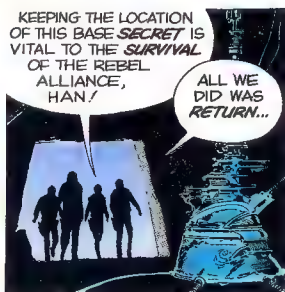
IT'S A **NEW**
BEGINNING
FOR THE REBEL
ALLIANCE,
HAN...

...BUT BECAUSE OF
THE **TIMING** OF
YOUR RETURN, IT
COULD VERY WELL
BE THE **END!**



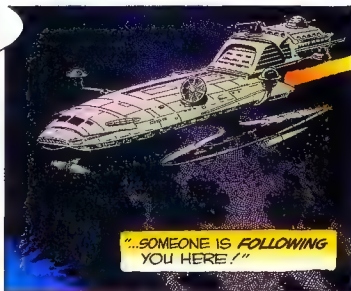
KEEPING THE LOCATION
OF THIS BASE **SECRET** IS
VITAL TO THE **SURVIVAL**
OF THE REBEL
ALLIANCE,
HAN!

ALL WE
DID WAS
RETURN...



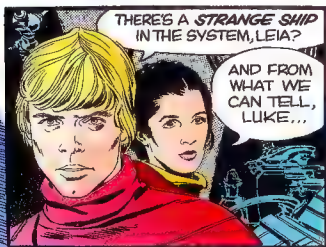
...NOT SELL
MAPS TO THE
EMPIRE, YOUR
WORSHIP!

WELL, ACCORDING
TO OUR INSTRUMENTS,
HOTSHOT...

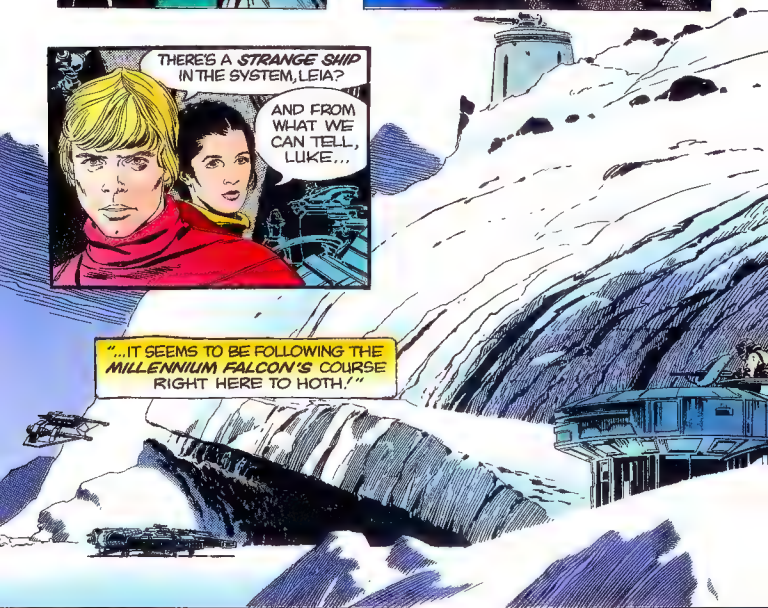


THERE'S A *STRANGE SHIP*
IN THE SYSTEM, LEIA?

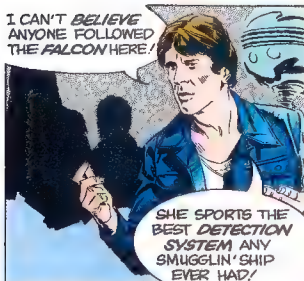
AND FROM
WHAT WE
CAN TELL,
LUKE...



"...IT SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING THE
MILLENNIUM FALCON'S COURSE
RIGHT HERE TO HOTH."

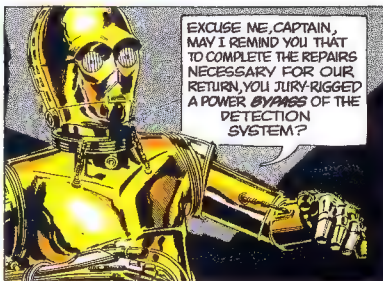


I CAN'T *BELIEVE*
ANYONE FOLLOWED
THE *FALCON* HERE!



SHE SPORTS THE
BEST *DETECTION*
SYSTEM ANY
SMUGGLIN' SHIP
EVER HAD!

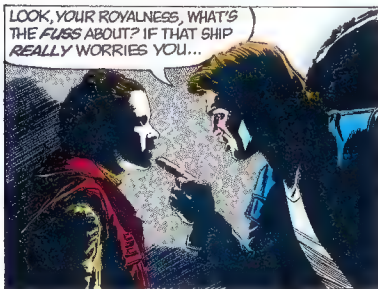
EXCUSE ME, CAPTAIN,
MAY I REMIND YOU THAT
TO COMPLETE THE REPAIRS
NECESSARY FOR OUR
RETURN, YOU JURY-RIGGED
A POWER *BYPASS* OF THE
DETECTION
SYSTEM?



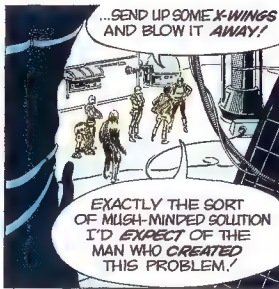
"IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW. THE IMPORTANT
THING IS HOW WE CAN *UNDO* THE DAMAGE
BEFORE THAT SHIP APPROACHING
DISCOVERS THIS BASE!"



LOOK, YOUR ROYALNESS, WHAT'S
THE *FUSS* ABOUT? IF THAT SHIP
REALLY WORRIES YOU...



...SEND UP SOME *X-WINGS*
AND BLOW IT *AWAY*!



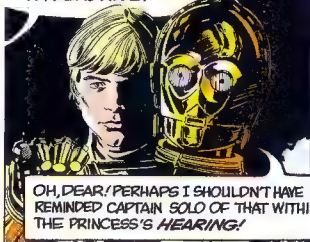
EXACTLY THE SORT
OF MUSH-MINDED SOLUTION
I'D EXPECT OF
THE MAN WHO *CREATED*
THIS PROBLEM!

I DIDN'T CREATE ANY
PROBLEM, LEIA... I JUST
DID WHAT I **HAD** TO
DO TO **RETOIN** YOUR
PRECIOUS
REBELLION!



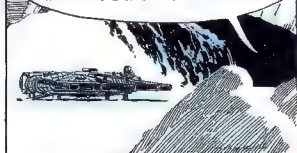
LIKE
SACRIFICING
YOUR SHIP'S
DETECTION
SYSTEM...

...TO GET POWER FOR
THAT FLYING JUNK HEAP'S
HYPERDRIVE!

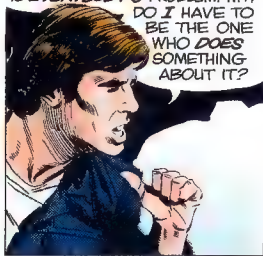


OH, DEAR! PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T HAVE
REMINDED CAPTAIN SOLO OF THAT WITHIN
THE PRINCESS'S **HEARING!**

THOSE **REPAIRS** ENABLED
THAT **STRANGE SHIP** TO FOLLOW
YOU, HOTSHOT! OUR NEW BEGINNING
HERE ON HOTH MAY BE **OVER...**
UNLESS YOU DO SOMETHING!



LISTEN, LADY, THAT STRANGE SHIP
IS **EVERYBODY'S** PROBLEM! WHY
DO I HAVE TO
BE THE ONE
WHO **DOES**
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT?



BECAUSE IF IT EVEN **GLIMPSES** A REBEL SHIP, OUR
PRESENCE HERE COULD BE REPORTED TO THE
EMPIRE BEFORE WE JAM COMMUNICATIONS!



"GO HOP BACK IN YOUR FLYING
ANTIQUE AND LEAD THE INTRUDER
AWAY, CAPTAIN... BE IT
FRIEND, FOE, OR SOMETHING
WE CAN'T EVEN **IMAGINE!**"



LEMME TELL YOU, CHEWIE...
THIS IS THE LAST
REBELLION, AND
ESPECIALLY THE
LAST *PRINCESS*.
I EVER GET
INVOLVED
WITH!

HAN...
WAIT!
I'M COMING
ALONG!

SOMETIMES I THINK IF YOU AND
LEIA DIDN'T *FIGHT*...YOU WOULDN'T
HAVE ANYTHING TO *TALK* ABOUT!

KID, YOU
HAVEN'T *SEEN*
A FIGHT...

...UNTIL I COME BACK FROM
VAPORIZING THAT INTRUDER
AND *REALLY* QUARREL WITH
HER ROYALNESS!

THAT'S
TWO THINGS
I CAME ALONG
TO *PREVENT*!

HAN, OUR NEW BASE IS *THREATENED*
BEFORE IT'S EVEN *COMPLETED*...YOU'VE
GOT TO *EXPECT* LEIA TO BE UPSET!

AND YOU CAN'T
JUST *DESTROY* THAT
STRANGE INTRUDER!

LUKE, I'M
GONNA *ASSUME*
YOU'VE GOT A
GOOD REASON
FOR THINKIN'
THAT...

...BUT I KINDA
WONDER IF THE OTHER
SHIP WILL FEEL SO
REASONABLE
ABOUT *US*!

The adventure continues next
month in *CLASSIC STAR WARS* #19!

STELLAR



10956 S.E. MAIN STREET

MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Let's start out this month's letter column with a slightly (I hope) tongue-in-cheek response to the three "Star Wars-in-a-page" strips that we ran in the *Star Wars Showcase*:

Lukaás Mayo
PO Box 876
Orleans, MA 02653

When are we going to see the animated version of Steve Stamatiadis' three-page *Star Wars* trilogy? I think that would be brilliant. With modern computer technology it could probably be accomplished with a reasonably modest budget. You could try updating the groundbreaking animation technique employed in such classic early television as the first *Marvel Superheroes* cartoon or *Clutch Cargo*. Color might be a good addition, unless you want to preserve the stark, raw drama of the black-and-white originals. Alec Guinness could narrate. You could even add a lightly humorous touch by having the pictures go by so fast that his narration can't keep up with them. You could videotape it on standard SP mode and fill up the rest of the tape with a two-hour-and-seven-minute documentary on the making of the tape. I think George Lucas would appreciate the tribute.

P.S.: Could you tell the people at Lucasfilm to start returning my phone calls? I have a 400-page treatment for the next three movies that needs some trimming.



And now, more raves (I love it!).

Steven Smolik
1130 Lawndale
Kingsville, TX 78363

I wish to thank you for *Stellar Scribes* and *Dark Horse* for their

publication of *Classic Star Wars*. When I first spotted *Classic Star Wars* in an ancient comic store, I couldn't believe my eyes. Being an avid fan of *Star Wars*, I bought it. I immediately read it. I loved it. Several months later (that was issue #8) I read *Stellar Scribes*, and was even more fascinated to hear of all the *Star Wars* books and publications.

Steven, the best source for anything *Star Wars*-related is probably the Lucasfilm Fan Club, which I've mentioned before in this column. But just to reiterate (and get a somewhat self-serving plug in while I'm at it), the Fan Club, officially endorsed by Lucasfilm, publishes a slickly produced quarterly magazine that includes feature articles on existing and upcoming Lucasfilm and related LucasArts Entertainment projects, a Fan Forum

.....
"An expansive undertaking... executed with creative guile and ingenuity deserving of Archie Goodwin and visual 'showstopper' Al Williamson"

.....
where readers can write in with their questions and opinions, and a comprehensive merchandise catalog in each issue; and starting with the Winter 1994 issue, there will also be a regular column (by yours truly) providing information on upcoming *Dark Horse* comic books based on Lucasfilm characters, as well as insights and short interviews with some of the creators responsible for the comics. You can write to the Fan Club for subscription information at the following address:

Lucasfilm Fan Club
Magazine
PO Box 111000
Aurora, CO 80042

Fortuitously for you, Steven, we also recently received a letter from Jason D. Smiley (Julie Drive, Apt. #4A, Colchester, VT 05446), who provided a comprehensive listing of *Star Wars* books published to date (which unfortunately we don't have room to print). You might want to get in touch with him directly to answer some of your questions.



From across the big pond comes this missive:

Ben Gracey
Willow Bank
Broughton
Faversham
Kent ME13 9NT
England

Classic Star Wars is incredible (I know by now it must sound unoriginal, but it's true!).

The artwork is superb. The background is especially good to see as it is so well drawn, but the simple "character-only" pictures where the background is white are a welcome change. I still can't tell where the art has been retouched. The lettering is clear and the covers are really amazing. The inks are in a class of their own. I have recently started to appreciate good inking in comics, and *CSW* really has shone out lately. It is really good to see sunsets reflecting on armor or an ice blue face. [Ben seems to be referring here to the quality of the coloring on the book — not the inking; compliments should be directed to our fantastic color artists who have graced the pages of this series: Steve

Buccellato, Matthew Hollingsworth, and Ray Murtaugh; not to mention the great work done by Dark Horse's own in-house color separation crew, whose names are too numerous to mention here, but are nonetheless very much appreciated by ye editor — especially Cara Niece, ace coloring corrections manager!]

I always turn to *Stellar Scribes* first as it is nice to hear all the news and all the memories. I have recently been given some *ROTJ* weekly comics and it prompted me to read all my old *Marvel Star Wars* comics. The letter pages are full of . . . well, all I can say is I am so glad *Stellar Scribes* does not have half a dozen phonies writing in all claiming to be Luke or Boba Fett! It does get a bit tragic.

Are there going to be any competitions soon from *CSW*? I also think that bringing back the Showcase would be great if you had the space.

As for the inside front and back cover . . . after studying it for all of two minutes I guess that if you join the inside front of one copy to the inside back of another it could give you the outside of the lift in *ROTJ* that went to the emperor's throne room on the *Death Star*, which was flanked by two Royal Imperial guards! Well, it was a good guess anyway. [. . . but unfortunately not even close; nice try, Ben.]

Thank you once again for a brilliant comic and hurry on 1997.



You want competitions, Ben? How about for the longest and most confusing address — for which you unfortunately just placed second to our next correspondent (John, we would have sent you your prize — but we couldn't fit your entire address on one side of the envelope!):

John Hood
Sherwood
Old Pinn Lane
Manor Gardens
Pinhoe, Exeter
Devon EX1 3RF
United Kingdom

Congratulations on your

"celestial voyage" known as *Classic Star Wars*. An expansive undertaking to be sure, and one executed with creative guile and ingenuity deserving of Archie Goodwin and visual "showstopper" Al Williamson.

I shall attempt to hold back on the superlative discourse as much as possible, but you truly deserve the praise bestowed upon you by the readers.

Anyway, it has been a pleasure to experience the return to the adventures of Luke Skywalker, from Yavin to Hoth. This being my inaugural encounter with the series, I do not recall the original news strip incarnation being released in the UK. The stories for me have retained the enchanting simplicity (purity) of the movie trilogy: *Star Wars* was my first stellar encounter with the cinematic realm at the tender age of five (1978). The film remains a special component of my life and all its memorabilia a treasure to collect. Thank you, George and John (music maestro).

The promise of a prequel trilogy has certainly inspired the imaginations of SF fans internationally. It is comforting to see that the enthusiasm to return to a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away has not diminished, as underscored by the letters forum and *Dark Horse's* very own commitment within the comic medium. Well done. It certainly ain't like dustin' crops.

Forgive my imposition, but if you print this letter, I would like to thank the Lucasfilm Fan Club for printing my letter in issue #20. I was honored. Thank you. Oh! One last thought. I wonder who will have the privilege to direct the prequels? Tim Burton (*Beetlejuice*); Jim Cameron (*Aliens*) . . .



Finally, we finish up this edition of *Stellar Scribes* with a couple of brief notes from an 11-year-old girl and a 74-year-old man — both with impeccable, and similar, tastes in comic art: the crisp, clean stylings of Al Williamson:

Patty Chiappine
15 North 3rd St.
Hammonont, NJ 08037

I am writing to tell you how glad I am that you made this comic book. I am only eleven, so I missed the first and second movies. But when I saw *Return of the Jedi*, I just had to get the entire trilogy. Many people don't understand that with everything else out there most of the magic is gone. I used to ask myself, is there a battle between the Rebels and the Imperials going on right now?

The pin-up page in *Classic Star Wars* #15 [by Kelly Freas] was great! Thanks for listening and bringing back the magic.



Carl V. Corley
20320-A Plank Road
Zachary, LA 70791

Since the death of Alex Raymond, creator of *Flash Gordon*, I have turned my attention and admiration to the art of Al Williamson, the finest artist we have today. I am trying to collect all his artwork I can find. I hope *Classic Star Wars* continues, and that Al Williamson remains the *Star Wars* artist.

When I was nine years old, I walked three miles down a dirt country road every Sunday to buy the Sunday funnies containing Raymond's *Flash Gordon*. I collected every issue until his death. Now, I am that anxious to collect the art of Al Williamson. I am only 74 years old now, yet with a sharp eye and steady hand — and, with SF comics, still a kid!



Coming up next month is the penultimate chapter in our *Classic Star Wars* series, with a great new cover by veteran comics artist George Evans, who along with Al Williamson, Wally Wood, and others, helped to define the classic look of 1950's comics. — Bob Cooper



DCP

PRESENTS A
SCAN BY

DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*